

so I don't have to put up an amendment. The Committee amendments go to eighteen so I guess my position would be, I urge you to reject the Committee amendments, take the bill in its original form which is seventeen, and you're there if that's where you agree.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, do you wish to speak... The question now is...the adoption of the Committee amendments.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I'd like to speak in opposition to the Committee amendments. Basically I'd like to just simplify and make it really short. Senator Venditte's point is well taken. I think it's a laudable goal to try to enforce some sort of maturity among young people who wish to get married. The problem with that is that you cannot in fact do that. The point that Senator Venditte makes, and I think it's a very valid one, is for every year that you can delay marriage, the likelihood of sustaining that marriage through a full lifetimes, increases. The problem is that that does not prevent marriages from happening. All they do is go to Kansas. Then you still have the same problem that the marriage may not last as long, so the only way you could possibly make sure that this would do what it's intended to do is to have a national age limit on how old people have to be and then set that at eighteen and absolutely prohibit it in the United States and then they all run to Mexico and that doesn't solve the problem either so I think that if you're really trying to just standardize it and try to keep it reasonable, seventeen may be the best compromise. You might just leave the statutes alone and probably would have been better off.

PRESIDENT: There's a call for the previous question. Do I see five seconds? I do. The question is shall debate now cease. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 19 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Not on this issue.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Well, thank you, Senator Simon. Do I have your permission? Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think we are underestimating our young people here. I think that the majority of our young people look at the law and if the law says seventeen, yes, I think they're going to get married at seventeen, but I think if the law says eighteen, I think they will wait till eighteen. Senator De Camp and Senator Newell have said that, you know, they're going to get married irregardless. No, I don't believe they're going to get married irregardless of the age. I think they look at the law. If the law says eighteen, I think they will wait till eighteen. You know, it's kind of interesting, why don't we move the driving age down to fifteen years of age. I'm sure that those young people at the age of fifteen are just as capable at fifteen as they are at sixteen. You know when we're talking about marriage, it's kind of a lifetime for most of us anyway and I question whether or not a sixteen or a seventeen year